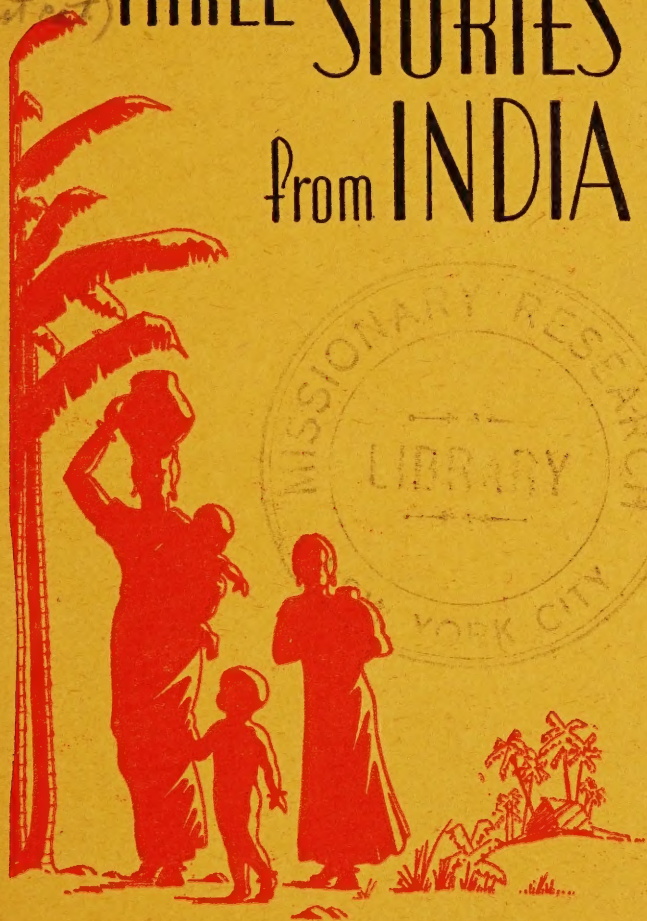


I am  
India

American Lutheran Church

953

(not cut) **THREE STORIES**  
from **INDIA...**



I. A Ford

II. Termites and  
Raindrops

III. Growing Pains



## WORLD WAR II DID NOT INVADE INDIA.

Other countries, too, were not invaded, but there was hardly a people on the face of the earth that did not experience hardship resulting from war. India, with its 400,000,000 people, was no exception.

Unlike New Guinea, India's churches were not bombed, its dwellings were not devastated, its missionaries, bringing a "peace which the world cannot give", were not slain. But the faith of the Indian Christians was tried. Famine, inflation, national unrest, threat of invasion were ever present to discourage the natives; depreciation of equipment, lack of native labor and American assistance, loss of facilities to military authorities, inability to expand with the needs, and separation from home have worked hardship on the missionaries.

But God in His love does not permit His children to be tried "above that ye are able." The war is over; the hardships linger, waiting to be removed as far as is possible by us in whose hands lies the power to do so.

Three stories coming out of India tell of these hardships.

# I A FORD

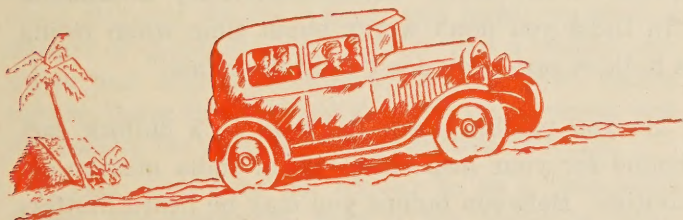
THIS IS REALLY THE STORY of six Fords, but one is so outstanding that it rates top billing.

Suppose you were a visitor in India and wanted to see some of our mission stations. There are railroads, but they only run where the tracks are laid, and much of our important work would be missed by rail. You may have heard that six of our missionaries have automobiles, so this seems the logical mode of transportation.

Missionary Carl Doermann is a generous soul and quickly offers the use of his car. Of course, it started running in 1929, only 16 years ago, so not too much can be expected of it. But there is hope that it will get you where you want to go, assuming you have four tires in your suitcase. There happens to be a tire shortage in India (imagine telling that to Americans). Let's assume you have four tires handy. The prospects for the trip are still bright.

Having mounted the four new tires, you hopefully step on the starter. When nothing happens, Missionary Doermann remembers to tell you the car hasn't been moved since Christmas, 1943 (those tires, you know). Obviously, a new battery is the secret. Automatically you reach for the phone book to call the garage on the corner. This is when you discover there is no phone—in fact no garage. The nearest repair man lives 100 miles away. And no tow-in service!

Not wanting to wait the four days necessary to find out whether the repair man has a new battery,



you seek the services of some other missionary's car. The situation is still discouraging—Missionary Carl Oberdorfer's car has been running since 1931. We discover the newest car on the field is a 1937 model! And the rough roads in India are a far cry from even the war-worn highways of America.

There is one sure way of getting around and that is by bullock cart. You don't worry about the tires—there are none. You don't lubricate the springs—there are none. The upholstery doesn't wear out—you sit on straw. The battery doesn't need recharging—you just change bullocks.

Your trip will be time consuming. Going from Renigunta to Tirupati, a distance of nine miles, takes a mere three hours. Muses Missionary Doermann: "In India you don't worry about time when riding a bullock cart—you don't want to go fast!"

So you rumble down the road in a bullock cart bound for your inspection trip of India mission activities. Between bumps you may be heard muttering to yourself something about "How can a missionary get his work done this way?"

## II. TERMITES AND RAINDROPS

THE TERMITES OF INDIA are having themselves a picnic at the expense of the American Lutheran Church. And it's been going on for more than three years.

If you think these little white ants are insignificant, you've never been in India. Millions of them can do and have done a lot of damage.

Were you to watch a termite set out to get his dinner, you'd probably see him chew a little mud for an appetizer, square off to a good sized piece of wood flooring for his entree, and finish up with a dessert of thatched roof. By the time a million termites had helped themselves to this three course dinner three times every day for three years, you can realize the need for reconstruction in India.

A rain drop does not appear to be a dangerous thing. But remember, most of the houses in India, and 350 of the village school houses on our mission field, are made of mud bricks covered with a mud



plaster. When enough rain drops beat often enough on mud houses, the houses are literally washed away. Even our own mission dwellings, which have stucco plastered over the mud bricks, suffer from the repeated rains.

Termites and raindrops are two reasons why the American Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Foreign Mission Reconstruction and Development program, part of the funds of which are to go to India.

"But why," you ask, "haven't we heard of this before? It's always rained in India and termites are nothing new."

In the past, certain preventative steps have been taken to ward off the effects of the rain and white ants. The churches, missionary houses, hospitals and schools we have built have been set on a concrete foundation and the bricks have been sealed with concrete about five feet off the ground. Termites have a habit of getting discouraged if they have to climb more than five feet for dinner. Furthermore, the whole plan of construction in India is based upon the assumption that the buildings will be painted outside and in every year. Paint not only seals the walls against white ants but also forms a protective coat against beating rains.

Because of the war, the buildings have not been painted for six years, wood was not obtainable to repair the structures, tile could not be found to plug up the holes in the roofs. In India, when a small crack appears in a wall, both the termites and the raindrops work on it until it becomes a good sized hole.

The nurses' quarters at the Renigunta hospital stand as mute testimony of the value of proper care of dwellings in India. Enough pre-war paint had been stored away to preserve these dwellings. If our other buildings are to be restored, it is time to wage total war with the paint and plaster against termites and raindrops.

# III GROWING PAINS

IMAGINE JUNIOR, now 12 years old, still wearing the clothes that fit him at age 6.

India has grown in the past six years; the church has gained members, the high school has increased its enrollment, the demand for hospital care and leper treatment is greater, but the facilities remain the same. India is bursting at the seams.

Let's pick up a few illustrations. The church at Renigunta seats 100 worshipers. The membership numbers 200, there are 240 boys in the high school there, plus the staffs of the high school and hospital. Five hundred people trying to crowd in a church that seats 100!

With the exception of four "victory huts" built in 1942, there has been no construction at the leper colony at Kodur for 26 years. Being the only institution of its kind in 200 miles, the number of applications has far exceeded the capacity. At present

only 60 patients can reside there (another 80 live elsewhere but come in for treatment). It is necessary to turn away Christian natives or, as has often been done in the past, let them sleep on the front porch of the superintendent's home. **There is no house of worship for the lepers**—their “church” is an old dispensary building, entirely inadequate.

When the military took over the high school at Renigunta, the school was moved to temporary quarters at Tirupati. Since then the school has grown to such an extent that when it again enters its Renigunta quarters two new dormitories will be needed. A third building, to serve as a home for the superintendent will also have to be built.

The hospital, also at Renigunta, very seriously needs three residences for Indian doctors. At present they are forced to live in three-room dwellings intended for compounders (orderlies).

Eight new missionary dwellings are needed. Some present “bungalows” have outlived their usefulness and there is no place for new missionaries, arriving on the field for the first time, to live. We have built no new houses for 25 years!

Can't the Indians contribute funds for construction? In America the cost of living has increased 35%; in India it has increased 250%! It must be remembered that most of our work is conducted with the low caste people; the caste system practically eliminates contribution of the higher castes, who can afford it, for the benefit of the lower castes.

Despite these obstacles, 700 rupees (about \$225) has been raised for the church at Renigunta; a fund of 2000 rupees (about \$640) is available for enlarging the leper colony. But India is chiefly looking to us in America to place the facilities on a par with the needs.

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THE STORY OF INDIA is one of retarded physical growth. The existing facilities have, out of necessity, deteriorated; normal expansion has been prevented.

Here are children of God, who stand in need of churches, hospitals and schools. Here are missionaries deprived of the facilities long deemed necessary to carry on soul saving work. The approaching Foreign Mission Reconstruction and Development program of the American Lutheran Church will give us, who have been more richly blessed, an opportunity to demonstrate our love to God and His children by furthering the spreading of the Gospel in India.







FOREIGN MISSION  
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT  
American Lutheran Church